

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Specification as following:

[0040] Preferred methods to prepare the poly(arylene ether)/poly(alkenyl aromatic) blends having reduce quantities of particulate impurities are disclosed in Application Serial No. 10/648,640, ~~attorney docket no. 135946-1~~ entitled “Methods of Preparing a Polymeric Material Composite”; Application Serial No. 10/648,647, ~~attorney docket no. 131982-1~~ entitled “Methods of Preparing a Polymeric Material”; and Application Serial No. 10/648,604, ~~attorney docket no. 126750-1~~ entitled “Methods of Purifying Polymeric Material” all filed on 8/26/2003, commonly owned and co-pending with the present application. The methods described in the co-pending applications provide a blend comprising poly(arylene ether) and poly(alkenyl aromatic) that is substantially free of particulate impurities. The methods described include melt filtering melts comprising poly(arylene ether) and poly(alkenyl aromatic), filtering solutions comprising poly(arylene ether), poly(alkenyl aromatic), or a combination thereof; or combinations of melt filtration and solution filtration to result in a blend of poly(arylene ether) and poly(alkenyl aromatic) substantially free of particulate impurities.

[0097] Data storage media can be produced by first forming the substrate material using a conventional reaction vessel capable of adequately mixing various precursors, such as a single or twin-screw extruder, kneader, blender, or the like. The extruder should be maintained at a sufficiently high temperature to melt the substrate material precursors without causing decomposition thereof. Similarly, the residence time, temperature, and shear rate in the extruder should be controlled to minimize decomposition. Average residence times of up to about 2 minutes (min) or more can be employed, with up to about 1.5 min preferred, and up to about 1 min especially preferred. Prior to extrusion into the desired form (typically pellets, sheet, web, or the like), the mixture can optionally be filtered, such as by melt filtering, the use of a screen pack, or combinations thereof, or the like, to remove undesirable contaminants or decomposition products. Useful methods to prepare the prepare the polymeric material

described herein is disclosed in Application Serial No. 10/648,604, ~~attorney docket no. 126750-1~~ entitled "Methods of Preparing a Polymeric Material", commonly owned and copending with the present application and Application Serial No. 10/648,647, ~~attorney docket no. 131982-1~~ entitled "Methods of Preparing a Polymeric Material", commonly owned and copending with the present application.